

Top Secret



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PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH: Representatives of the two countries are reportedly trying to arrange a summit conference in the UK later this month between President Bhutto and Prime Minister Mujib.

25X1 . [redacted] Pakistani representatives have been meeting in London with Bangladesh officials--presumably aides to Mujib, who is recuperating there from a gallstone operation. [redacted]

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[redacted] Mujib has long held that talks between the two sides can begin only after Pakistan has recognized Bangladesh.

Specific arrangements and an agenda for a meeting have not yet been completed [redacted]

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25X1 [redacted] The two leaders will almost certainly meet eventually--if not in London this month--to discuss such questions as the division of the assets and liabilities of the formerly united Pakistan, the exchange of minority groups, and resumption of trade. On the issue of greatest importance to Pakistan--the repatriation of the 93,000 Pakistani prisoners of war being held by India--Bangladesh and India have agreed that any negotiations must be trilateral. Bhutto is unlikely to be able to persuade Mujib to drop plans for trying some of the prisoners on war crimes charges, although Mujib may prove willing to try only a small number. [redacted]

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PARAGUAY: The extradition proceedings against accused narcotics smuggler Auguste Ricord present President Stroessner with a political dilemma.

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[redacted] Stroessner
[redacted] does not wish to jeopardize his relations with the US and [redacted] has instructed his attorney general to make a strong appeal to the appellate court that Ricord be extradited. Although the Paraguayan strong man actually could bypass the court in this matter, he is reluctant to undercut the image of political liberalization he has sought to maintain for the past several years.

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Stroessner's failure to stand up to pressure from the US on the extradition issue would leave him open to criticism from his traditional supporters in the military and the ruling Colorado political party. In addition, unless he rescinds the democratic privileges he has allowed during previous election year campaigns, he would face such criticism from his opponents at a time when he is preparing for the elections scheduled for early next year.

Stroessner reportedly is concerned that if Ricord is extradited to the US he will identify other important narcotics traffickers in Paraguay, possibly including military personnel close to the President. Although their involvement in drug traffic never has been proved, their names remain prominent in rumors about such activity.

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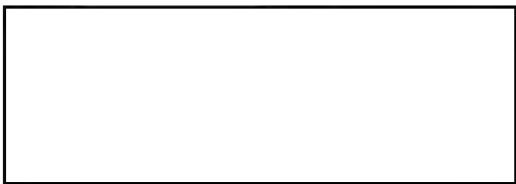
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